

Application No. 09/893,541
Response After Final Rejection dated November 3, 2006
Reply to Office Action of August 8, 2006

REMARKS

This is responsive to the Office Action mailed August 8, 2006. Reconsideration of the application as amended is requested.

The current status of the claims

Claims 1-8, 10-12, 14-22, 24-26, and 28-41 are pending in the instant application and all stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,499,026 issued to Rivette et al. (hereinafter "Rivette").

Claims 1-8, 40 and 42 Patentably Distinguish over the References of Record

Independent claim 1 includes a limitation for displaying in a document pane at least a portion of first contents of a current object, displaying in a map pane a K-map indicating objects which are cataloged in the knowledge portal as including second contents related to a selected K-map object, and displaying in a preview pane third contents associated with a preview object selected from the K-map, wherein the document pane, map pane, and preview pane are displayed simultaneously on a single display device.

The Office Action rejects claim 1 based partially on Figure 117, item 11706, and col. 113, line 65 through col. 115, line 27 of Rivette. The Office Action interprets the "document window" of Rivette (item 11706) as allegedly corresponding to the document pane of the present application. It should first be pointed out that the document pane of the present application, as described from page 15, line 21 through page 16, line 4, and as recited in the subject claim, as amended, is used for displaying content of the current object. For example, in the case of text objects, the actual text is displayed. For non-text objects, the content is preferably displayed in a format suitable for the object. As a visual example, Figure 2 shows actual text from an exemplary text document. Rivette, on the other hand, teaches utilizing the document window (item 11706) for displaying a list of "file titles" rather than "object or file contents" as described in col. 114, lines 22-40 and lines 58-67. In particular, Rivette describes the patents and other documents as being listed in a tabular or "spreadsheet" format (lines 25-26).

As an example, Rivette shows an exemplary listing of a single patent (U.S.

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Patent No. 5,029,013) in the document window displayed in Figure 133. Note that none of the content of the exemplary patent is shown in the document window, or elsewhere in the figure. Nor does Rivette teach or fairly suggest displaying patent or other document content in the document window. In fact, to the contrary, Rivette teaches displaying the patent or document content in another separate window as described in col. 115, lines 8-15, and shown in Figures 123-124. Rivette describes showing text of a selected patent in a text window, and an image of the selected patent in an image window, where the operator may view the text and image windows either separately, or simultaneously. However, Rivette apparently does not teach displaying either the text window or the image window simultaneously with, or included within, the document window. On the other hand, as described above, Claim 1 of the present application recites a limitation wherein the document pane (which displays content of the object), map pane, and preview pane are displayed simultaneously on a single display device. Although the Office Action, on page 3, makes reference to Figure 117 of Rivette as an example of the document pane, map pane, and preview pane being displayed simultaneously, as described above with reference to similar Figure 133, the document window of Rivette does not display content of patents or other documents.

Further, with continued reference to claim 1, the Office Action makes reference to col. 120, lines 8-62 of Rivette as allegedly corresponding to the recited limitations of claim 1 for updating at least one of the current object identity, the preview object identity, and a K-map parameter. However, claim 1, as amended, recites updating, based upon the received user input, at least one of the current object identity, the preview object identity, and a K-map parameter. As described in the specification of the present application (page 14, lines 11-15, page 18, lines 3-14, and page 20, lines 4-10), the K-map parameters preferably determine the range of objects included in the K-map. However, the above-mentioned parameters recited in the subject claim determine the range of objects to be included in a manner neither taught nor suggested in Rivette. For example, the scope parameter restricts contents of the K-map based on a strength of relationship; the view selector preferably selects between a node view and a tree view; the class selector limits objects to a specific class, e.g. people, places or things; and the object parameter constructs the K-map according to, e.g. keywords. It should be noted that the scope parameter is user adjustable as described on page 18, lines 2-4,

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preferably by means of a "Scope" slider bar. The only apparent strength of relationship mentioned in Rivette relates to the number of links between one note to another which is not a user-selectable measure of strength.

It is respectfully submitted, therefore, that the Rivette patent does not teach each and every element of claim 1. For at least the above-stated reasons, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 1, and claims 2-8, 40 and 42 dependent therefrom, are patentably distinct and unobvious over the art of record.

Claims 10-12 and 14-18 Patentably Distinguish over the References of Record

Independent claim 10 describes an apparatus comprising a computer having a data store coupled thereto and one or more computer programs. The claim additionally recites a limitation such that one of the computer programs is used for updating a K-map conditional upon updating a K-map parameter, the K-map parameter including at least one of a scope, a view selector, a class selector, and a K-map object parameter. The claim recites another limitation for displaying in a document pane at least a portion of contents of the current object.

The Office Action makes reference to col. 118, line 45 through col. 119, line 44 of Rivette as allegedly corresponding to the recited limitation of claim 10 for updating a K-map conditional upon updating a K-map parameter, and displaying in a document pane at least a portion of the current object. However, claim 10, as amended, recites the K-map parameter as including at least one of a scope, a view selector, a class selector, and a K-map object parameter. As described in the specification of the present application (page 14, lines 11-15, page 18, lines 3-14, and page 20, lines 4-10), the K-map parameters preferably determine the range of objects included in the K-map. However, the above-mentioned parameters recited in the subject claim determine the range of objects to be included in a manner neither taught nor suggested in Rivette. For example, the scope parameter restricts contents of the K-map based on a strength of relationship; the view selector preferably selects between a node view and a tree view; the class selector limits objects to a specific class, e.g. people, places or things; and the object parameter constructs the K-map according to, e.g. keywords.

Further, claim 10 recites a limitation with respect to the document pane for displaying in the document pane at least a portion of contents of the current object.

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However, the document pane of the present application, as described from page 15, line 21 through page 16, line 4, and as recited in the subject claim, as amended, is used for displaying content of the current object. For example, in the case of text objects, the actual text is displayed. For non-text objects, the content is preferably displayed in a suitable format for the object. As a visual example, Figure 2 shows actual text from an exemplary text document. Rivette, on the other hand, teaches utilizing the document window (item 11706) for displaying a list of patents and other documents as described in col. 114, lines 22-40 and lines 58-67. In particular, Rivette describes the patents and other documents as being listed in a tabular or "spreadsheet" format (lines 25-26). As an example, Rivette shows an exemplary listing of a single patent (U.S. Patent No. 5,029,013) in the document window displayed in Figure 133. Note that no content of the exemplary patent is shown in the document window, or elsewhere in the figure. Nor does Rivette teach or fairly suggest displaying patent or other document content in the document window. In fact, as previously described, Rivette teaches displaying the patent or document content in another separate window as described in col. 115, lines 8-15, and shown in Figures 123-124.

It is respectfully submitted, therefore, that the Rivette patent does not teach each and every element of claim 10. For at least the above-stated reasons, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 10, and claims 11-12 and 14-18 dependent therefrom, are patentably distinct and unobvious over the art of record.

Claims 19-22, 24-26, and 41 Patentably Distinguish over the References of Record

Independent claim 19, recites a limitation for displaying in a document pane at least a portion of contents of a current object.

As with claim 1, the Office Action rejects claim 19 based partially on Figure 117, item 11706, and col. 113, line 65 through col. 115, line 27 of Rivette. The Office Action interprets the "document window" of Rivette (item 11706) as allegedly corresponding to the document pane of the present application. It should first be pointed out that the document pane of the present application, as described from page 15, line 21 through page 16, line 4, and as recited in the subject claim, as amended, is used for displaying content of the current object. For example, in the case of text objects, the actual text is

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displayed. For non-text objects, the content is preferably displayed in a suitable format for the object. As a visual example, Figure 2 shows actual text from an exemplary text document. Rivette, on the other hand, teaches utilizing the document window (item 11706) for displaying a list of patents and other documents as described in col. 114, lines 22-40 and lines 58-67. In particular, Rivette describes the patents and other documents as being listed in a tabular or "spreadsheet" format (lines 25-26).

As an example, Rivette shows an exemplary listing of a single patent (U.S. Patent No. 5,029,013) in the document window displayed in Figure 133. Note that no content of the exemplary patent is shown in the document window, or elsewhere in the figure. Nor does Rivette teach or fairly suggest displaying patent or other document content in the document window. In fact, to the contrary, Rivette teaches displaying the patent or document content in another separate window as described in col. 115, lines 8-15, and shown in Figures 123-124. Rivette describes showing text of a selected patent in a text window, and an image of the selected patent in an image window, where the operator may view the text and image windows either separately, or simultaneously. However, Rivette apparently does not teach displaying either the text window or the image window simultaneously with, or included within, the document window. On the other hand, as described above, Claim 19 of the present application recites a limitation wherein the document pane (which displays content of the object), map pane, and preview pane are displayed simultaneously on a single display device. Although the Office Action, on page 3, makes reference to Figure 117 of Rivette as an example of the document pane, map pane, and preview pane being displayed simultaneously, as described above with reference to similar Figure 133, the document window of Rivette does not display content of patents or other documents.

It is respectfully submitted, therefore, that the Rivette patent does not teach each and every element of claim 19. For at least the above-stated reasons, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 19, and claims 20-22, 24-26, and 41 dependent therefrom, are patentably distinct and unobvious over the art of record.

Claims 28-39 Patentably Distinguish over the References of Record

Independent claim 28, recites a limitation for a K-map processor for calculating a K-map corresponding to a current object and a set of K-map parameters, the K-map

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identifying objects indicated by a catalog of the knowledge portal as having content related to the current object, and the set of K-map parameters including at least one of a scope, a view selector, a class selector, and a K-map object parameter, and a limitation for a current object display pane for displaying at least a portion of contents of the current object.

The Office Action rejects claim 28 based on Figure 117, item 11706, and col. 113, line 65 through col. 115, line 27 of Rivette, and also based on col. 118, line 45 through col. 119, line 44. The Office Action interprets the "document window" of Rivette (item 11706) as allegedly corresponding to the document pane of the present application. It should first be pointed out that the document pane of the present application, as described from page 15, line 21 through page 16, line 4, and as recited in the subject claim, as amended, is used for displaying content of the current object. For example, in the case of text objects, the actual text is displayed. For non-text objects, the content is preferably displayed in a suitable format for the object. As a visual example, Figure 2 shows actual text from an exemplary text document. Rivette, on the other hand, teaches utilizing the document window (item 11706) for displaying a list of patents and other documents as described in col. 114, lines 22-40 and lines 58-67. In particular, Rivette describes the patents and other documents as being listed in a tabular or "spreadsheet" format (lines 25-26).

As an example, Rivette shows an exemplary listing of a single patent (U.S. Patent No. 5,029,013) in the document window displayed in Figure 133. Note that no content of the exemplary patent is shown in the document window, or elsewhere in the figure. Nor does Rivette teach or fairly suggest displaying patent or other document content in the document window. In fact, to the contrary, Rivette teaches displaying the patent or document content in another separate window as described in col. 115, lines 8-15, and shown in Figures 123-124. Rivette describes showing text of a selected patent in a text window, and an image of the selected patent in an image window, where the operator may view the text and image windows either separately, or simultaneously.

Further, new dependent claims 42-44 recite a set of K-map parameters, the set of K-map parameters including at least one of a scope, a view selector, a class selector, and a K-map object parameter. As described in the specification of the present

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application (page 14, lines 11-15, page 18, lines 3-14, and page 20, lines 4-10), the K-map parameters preferably determine the range of objects included in the K-map. However, the above-mentioned parameters recited in the subject claim determine the range of objects to be included in a manner neither taught nor suggested in Rivette. For example, the scope parameter restricts contents of the K-map based on a strength of relationship; the view selector preferably selects between a node view and a tree view; the class selector limits objects to a specific class, e.g. people, places or things; and the object parameter constructs the K-map according to, e.g. keywords. It should be noted that the scope parameter is user adjustable as described on page 18, lines 2-4, preferably by means of a "Scope" slider bar. The only apparent strength of relationship mentioned in Rivette relates to the number of links between one note to another which is not a user-selectable measure of strength.

It is respectfully submitted, therefore, that the Rivette patent does not teach each and every element of claim 28. For at least the above-stated reasons, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 28, and claims 29-39 dependent therefrom, are patentably distinct and unobvious over the art of record.

Comments on "Examiner's Response to Arguments" in the Final Rejection

In the Office Action mailed August 8, 2006, the Examiner states that based on col. 122, lines 50 - 64, Rivette teaches displaying a text window, an image window and a preview window simultaneously. Applicants respectfully disagree. Column 122, lines 50 - 64 of Rivette corresponds to FIG. 56, FIG. 112, FIG. 140 and FIGs. 145A - 145C. FIGs. 145A, 145B and 145C all display only a text image. However there are "buttons" displayed that correspond to different views, including: Text 14505, Image 14506, Text & Image 14508, and New Search 14510.

If the Image button 14506 is selected, as shown in FIG. 56, a simple graphic representing figures of a patent is provided. FIG. 112 presents a sample of what is provided when the Text & Image button 14508 is selected. If the user selects the New Search button 14510, a patent search screen as shown in FIG. 140 is displayed. FIG. 140 presents only one window comprising a form with multiple fields that can be used to enter search criteria and then initiate a search. It should be noted that unlike as taught

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in the present application, Rivette does not provide a Preview Pane or Preview object, as specified by Claim 1 of the instant application.

In light of the above, col. 122, lines 50 - 64 and the corresponding figures of Rivette do not teach, show or suggest the document pane, map pane, and preview pane being displayed simultaneously as claimed by Applicants.

The Examiner also states that based on col. 130, lines 58-66 Rivette teaches a K-map object parameter because a user is allowed to define the scope of a K-map. Applicants respectfully disagree. Column 130, lines 58-66 of Rivette corresponds to FIG. 163, which shows that a separate window comprising a dialog box is presented to allow the user to select the scope of the "citation analysis." In this dialogue box 16302, the user identifies whether he/she wishes to perform a forward citation function or a backward citation function, wherein citations are simply references to other patents.

Rivette describes that the user can define the scope of the citation analysis to be performed by indicating the number of levels that should be cited. However, it is important to note that "scope" as defined by Rivette is different than as defined in the instant application. In Rivette, scope is defined in terms of layers of hierarchy, while in the instant application scope is based on the strength relationships between objects. As described within Rivette col. 130, lines 58-66, and as illustrated in corresponding figures, the levels are determined by hierarchical relationships to other patents. Stated another way, Rivette only considers whether a relationship exists, while the instant application considers the strength of relationships between objects.

In light of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that the Rivette does not allow users to define the scope of a K-map as claimed in the instant application.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments, comments, and arguments presented, it is respectfully submitted that all pending claims (claims 1-8, 10-12, 14-22, 24-26, and 28-41) are patentably distinct and unobvious over the references of record.

Allowance of all pending claims and early notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,

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